Pending proposals of power and railway

†2665. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals pertaining to power and railways pending with his Ministry received from Chhattisgarh and other States and since when, these are pending;

(b) whether, while looking into environment related proposals, Government makes a delayed assessment of the harms to the national interests, in concerned projects; and

(c) by when these projects are expected to get clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A total of 34 projects including 4 projects from Chhattisgarh pertaining to power sector are pending with this Ministry for grant of Environmental Clearance. These projects are pending for a period ranging from 1 to 12 months primarily due to non submission of requisite information and non availability of confirmed fuel linkage. Railway projects do not require environmental clearance.

(b) No, Sir. The projects get delayed due to non-submission of requisite information, lack of water commitment and fuel linkage, land disputes, court cases, etc.

(c) As soon as the requisite information is received from the project proponents, the projects would be appraised from environmental angle as per the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

Melting of Himalayan Glacier

†2666. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a difference of opinion between UN climate change panel (IPCC) and the Ministry on the question of melting of Himalayan Glacier;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Government study regarding melting of Himalayan glaciers and whether Government is going to set up a task force on this serious environmental issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.